

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7023

BILL NUMBER: HB 1265

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 10, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Hunting Preserves.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Ubelhor

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State and Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill provides for the licensing and operation of hunting preserves on which farm-raised and -released cervidae and game birds are hunted. The bill establishes licensing requirements and fees. The bill exempts licensed hunting preserves from the licensing requirements for game breeders and shooting preserves.

The bill provides that hunters on hunting preserves are not required to have a hunting license and are not subject to bag limits. It requires that a transportation tag be purchased and fixed to the leg of each cervidae taken on a hunting preserve. It also prohibits computer-assisted remote hunting on hunting preserves.

The bill provides that the law under which the county is liable for losses sustained by the owners of certain types of animals are killed or maimed by dogs does not apply to farm-raised cervidae and game birds on a hunting preserve.

Effective Date: July 1, 2012.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Licensing of Cervidae Hunting Preserves:* The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) must issue hunting preserve licenses, inspect hunting preserves not in operation before January 1, 2012, renew licenses, and provide hunting preserve transportation tags. The DNR would have additional expenditures related to staff time needed to inspect and issue licenses to new operations. (The bill provides that if before January 1, 2012, a hunting preserve met the requirements of and was licensed as a shooting preserve, the owner may release permitted animals and resume hunting preserve operations without an inspection.)

The bill does not require annual inspections. The DNR spends 4 to 6 hours per inspection, and for the larger pens it can take two officers to complete an inspection. Inspection costs can range from \$88 to \$264 per pen. The total costs of inspections would depend on the number of new hunting preserve license applications and any DNR rules that might be promulgated. Hunting preserves are required to collect and document specific data on forms supplied by the DNR. Specified data is required to be kept for two years. (Shooting preserves are required to report required data to the DNR annually.) Overall expenses associated with the administration of the bill are estimated to be minor.

Explanation of State Revenues: Net impact on license and fee revenue would depend on the number of hunting preserves to be established, the number of transportation tags sold each year, and any potential reduction in the number of hunting licenses sold as a result of the operation of the hunting preserves. Any revenue would be deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Fund, which is used to fund the operations of the DNR Divisions of Fish & Wildlife and Enforcement.

Cervidae Hunting Preserve Licenses: The bill establishes a hunting preserve license and requires a fee of \$250.

Transportation and Culling Tags: The DNR will be required to provide transportation and culling tags for every cervidae taken on the hunting preserve. Each transportation tag will have a fee of \$50 per buck or \$25 per doe taken on the hunting preserve. Cervidae culled by the owner and transported for personal consumption or to a butcher or charity would require a cull tag, which is to be available at no cost to the owner.

Game Breeders Licenses. The owner of a hunting preserve license is not required to possess a game breeder's license or a shooting preserve license. The fee for a game breeders license is \$15. The fee for a shooting preserve license is \$100. Since hunting preserve licenses would be more expensive, any conversion of a shooting preserve license to a hunting preserve license would result in a net increase in revenue.

Hunting Licenses: The bill would exempt users of a hunting preserve from obtaining a hunting license. The bill also provides that there is no bag limit for permitted animals of either sex taken on a hunting preserve. Current law regarding shooting preserves requires Indiana residents to obtain a hunting license and nonresidents to obtain a special license costing \$8.75. (Currently, the resident hunting license fee is \$17, and the nonresident license fee is \$80. The resident deer hunting license fee is \$24; the nonresident fee is \$150. A separate deer license is required for each deer taken.) The bill may reduce the amount of fee revenue associated with deer hunting licenses. The extent to which revenue might be reduced would depend on the number of licenses that might otherwise be purchased absent this provision. Transportation tag revenue may offset, somewhat, the loss of license fee revenue.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: The bill exempts hunting preserves from the law under which counties have liability for losses of certain animals that are killed or maimed by dogs. To the extent that counties would pay claims for livestock damages caused by dogs, the bill would eliminate any damages incurred by hunting preserves as a county liability.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DNR, State Board of Animal Health.

Local Agencies Affected: County auditors and local law enforcement.

Information Sources: DNR.

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